



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SELMA MAN INDICTED ON FIREARM CHARGES

MOBILE, AL—A Federal Grand Jury in Mobile has indicted a Selma, Alabama man on a charge of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm and being in possession of an unregistered firearm, United States Attorney Deborah J. Rhodes of the Southern District of Alabama announced today.

Benjamin F. Hale, Jr, 37, was arrested by ATF Agents after Hale made a purchase of a Mac-10 semi-automatic pistol and a firearm silencer on April 17, 2008 in Selma. Hale, who has a previous felony conviction in 2007 for impersonating a peace officer, is precluded by law from possessing any firearms at all. He faces up to ten years in federal prison if convicted. Prosecutors expect the case to go to trial in June 2008.

The indictment resulted from a joint investigation conducted by ATF, the Selma, Alabama Police Department, and the Attorney General's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Cherry.

An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course is presumed innocent until and unless he or she is proven guilty at trial.

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